

**Rhode Island Commuter Rail Improvement Program**  
**Pawtucket Layover Facility**  
**Pawtucket, Rhode Island**  
(November 2002)

**Description**

The Pawtucket Layover Facility Project is a joint Rhode Island Department of Transportation (RIDOT)/Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) venture, consisting of the design and construction of a six-track commuter rail yard for the purpose of overnight layover/storage of commuter rail equipment, to serve both the existing Providence-Boston service and Rhode Island's future South County commuter rail service. The proposed site is located in the northwest quadrant of the I-95 and Smithfield Avenue Interchange on the Pawtucket/Providence city line. The 12-acre parcel is situated adjacent to and east of the Amtrak Main Line.

The facility will provide for future commuter rail growth both at Providence and South County, Rhode Island. Currently, commuter rail carries approximately 825 riders per day at Providence with eight round trips. Ridership is expected to grow to 1,050 riders per day in 2005 with eleven round trips. Ridership studies conducted to date for the proposed South County Commuter Rail Service show an expected 2,550 riders per day would use the service to Providence.

The total capital cost for this project is \$18.5 million, with a proposed Section 5309 New Starts share of \$10 million. Because the proposed New Starts share is less than \$25 million, the project is exempt from the New Starts criteria, and is thus not subject to FTA's evaluation and rating (49 USC Section 5309 (e)(8)(A)).

Summary Description	
<b>Proposed Project:</b>	Pawtucket Layover Facility
<b>Total Capital Cost (\$YOE):</b>	\$18.5 million
<b>Section 5309 New Starts Share (\$YOE):</b>	\$10 million (54%)
<b>Annual Operating Cost (\$2003):</b>	\$1.0 million
<b>Opening Year Ridership Forecast:</b>	N/A

The project includes a proposed Federal share of 54 percent in Section 5309 New Starts funding. The Administration is seeking legislation that would limit the Federal New Starts share to no more than 50 percent beginning in FY2004.

**Status**

RIDOT, in conjunction with the MBTA, has proposed the development of a commuter rail layover yard in Pawtucket, Rhode Island. The project is included in Rhode Island's Long Range Ground Transportation Plan, and has been adopted by the State MPO in the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

Based on the environmental documentation submitted by RIDOT, FTA found that the specific conditions or criteria for a Categorical Exclusion under 23 CFR 771.117(d)(11) were satisfied and that significant environmental impacts would not result. FTA issued an environmental determination on December 3, 1999.

Preliminary Engineering and Final Design have been completed. This project was approved for Final Design in April 2001. Construction is expected to begin in Winter 2003 and be completed in 2004. The layover yard would begin operations in early 2004.

The MBTA, as the responsible agency for Final Design and construction, has developed a recent construction cost estimate of \$18.5 million (escalated dollars) for this project. RIDOT and MBTA propose completing the project with Section 5309 New Starts funds, Section 5309 Fixed Guideway Modernization funds, and MBTA funds.

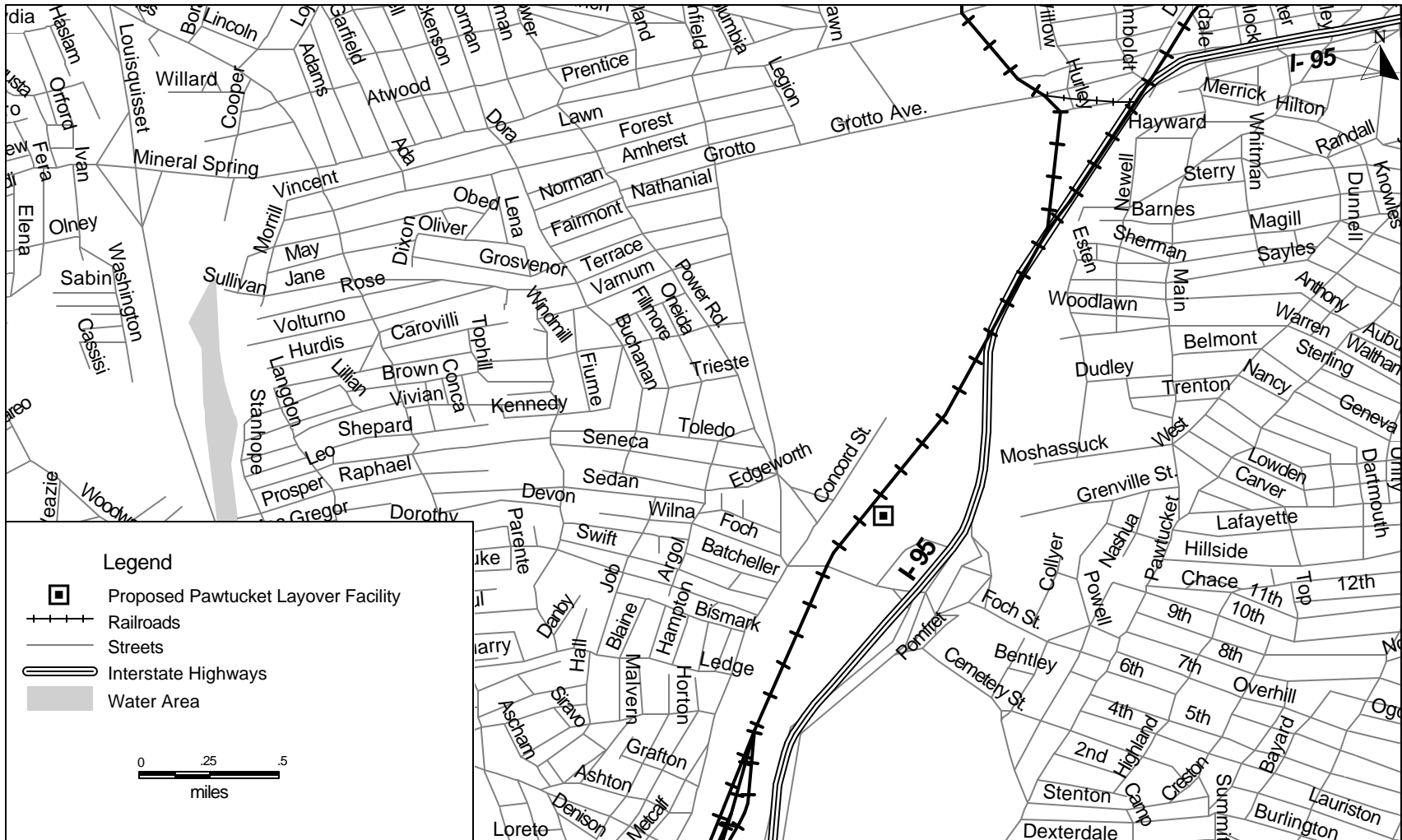
The Pawtucket Layover Facility was authorized in TEA-21 in Section 3030 (c)(1)(A)(xlili). Through FY 2002, RIDOT has received \$5.45 million in Section 5309 New Starts appropriations for this project.

<b>Locally Proposed Financial Plan</b>		
<b><u>Proposed Source of Funds</u></b>	<b><u>Total Funding (\$millions)</u></b>	<b><u>Percent of Total</u></b>
<b>Federal:</b>		
Section 5309 New Starts	\$10.0	54.1%
Section 5309 Fixed Guideway Modernization	\$4.7	25.4%
<b>Local:</b>		
MBTA Bonds	\$3.8	20.5%
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$18.5</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

**NOTE:** Funding proposal reflects assumptions made by project sponsors, and are not DOT or FTA assumptions. Total may not add due to rounding.

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## Pawtucket, Rhode Island



Federal Transit Administration, 2002

